

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on October 13, 2004, has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Prior to this paper, claims 10, 12, 16-17, and 19-34 were pending. (In a previous Office Action, claims 16, 19-22 and 26-27 were withdrawn from prosecution, although the present Office Action indicates that these claims were examined and does not indicate that the claims have been withdrawn, and Applicants have changed the status of the claims accordingly.) By this paper, Applicants cancel claims 16 and 32. Therefore, claims 10, 12, 17, 19-31 and 33-34 are now pending.

Telephone Interviews of January 12, 13 and 18

Applicants thank Examiner Palabrica for considering the draft set of claims faxed to him on January 12, 2005, and for extending the courtesy of telephone interviews on January 12, 13 and 18, 2005, in which it was indicated that the above amendments to the claim set should remove the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 (the amendments to claim 20 being added per the Examiner's recommendation).

Applicants thank Examiner Palabrica for his cooperation by considering the claim amendments in advance of this amendment.

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In view of these telephone interviews, Applicants submit that the above summary of the interviews provides a complete and proper recollection of the substance of the interview, per MPEP §713.04.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 16 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with various requirements of that statute section. In response, in order to advance

prosecution, Applicants cancel claims 16 and 32 without prejudice or disclaimer, and respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

In the Office Action, claims 10, 12, 16, 17 and 19-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. As seen above, claims 10, 12, 20, 23, 25, 26, 27 and 28 have been amended, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the above amendments.

Support for these amendments may be found, among other places, in the third paragraph of page 1, in the first full paragraph of page 2, in the paragraph spanning pages 5 and 6, on the paragraph spanning pages 13 and 14, on the first full paragraph of page 16, etc.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

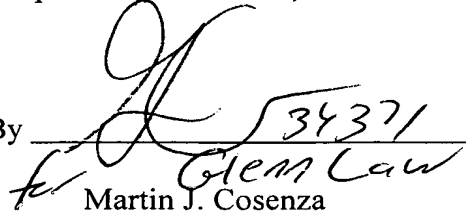
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Examiner Palabrica is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 2/14/05

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